

three years ago, Father John Washington, Reverend Clark Poling, Rabbi Alexander Goode and Reverend George Fox died aboard the USS (USAT) *Dorchester* on February 3, 1943, as a result of a torpedo attack by a German U-Boat.

In the mayhem after the attack, the Four Chaplains provided comfort to fallen soldiers and handed out life vests to the survivors. After the life vests ran out, they removed their own life vests, gave them to needy soldiers, and stood arm-in-arm together praying for the comfort of the soldiers. Eighteen minutes after the attack, the USS (USAT) *Dorchester* sunk with the Four Chaplains aboard. John Koenig, a resident of the 7th District of Virginia wrote of their sacrifice in a letter saying "By putting others in front of themselves without regard to race, creed, or color, thus in making the ultimate sacrifice costing each his life so that others might live, they exemplified the finest in saintly virtues."

On behalf of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Midlothian, Virginia, and the following members of the vestry: Alison Althouse—Senior Warden; Margaret Stevens—Registrar; Reverend Stephen Cowardin—Rector; Reverend Kathryn Jenkins; Rose O'Toole; Stewart Dendtler; Leonard Vance; John Flikeid; Jo Anne Simpkins; Matthew Whitworth; Betsy Collins; Lois Thompson; Stefani Ross; Jennifer Wester; and William White, I am honored to recognize the sacrifices of the Immortal Four Chaplains of the USS (USAT) *Dorchester*.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. VINCENT,
JR.

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of honor, faith, family, and selfless service. On April 13, James (Jim) J. Vincent, Jr. lost his life when the County Rescue helicopter he was piloting had a catastrophic failure.

Jim Vincent was a native of my home town of Menominee, Michigan. Jim excelled at high school sports and developed discipline, leadership, and respect at an early age. He enlisted in the United States Navy, where he spent 6 years serving his country. Wanting to become a pilot, he joined the United States Coast Guard, received world-class training, and began flying search and rescue missions.

I had the pleasure of working with Jim when he moved to Traverse City, Michigan, and was based out of the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. On a couple of occasions I flew with Jim. His skills as a pilot were impeccable. He took his job seriously, and Jim was the consummate professional. He had an ability to relate and work well with officers, enlisted men, and civilians. He treated everyone with respect and was always willing to lend a hand.

There are countless stories of Jim helping others with everything from re-wiring their homes, to work at the local American Legion, to helping friends pack up and move during relocation for work. One of the more touching stories about Jim was told by a fellow Coast Guardsman who went through officer training school with him. This cadet was at a point

where he wasn't sure if he could complete the training. During one particularly difficult training task, Jim put his arm around his classmate and told him "You know what, it's gonna be all right." That classmate found strength in Jim's words and managed to complete officer training school. He went on to become Cmdr. Sam Creech, who is now the operations officer at Jim's old base, Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City.

After 20 years of combined service in the Navy and Coast Guard, Jim and his family moved back home to Menominee where they could be near their extended family and build their dream home. Jim, his wife Gina, their sons, Jim III and Luke, and their daughter, Vanessa, worked together on construction of their home overlooking the waters of Green Bay. They put a lot of sweat and love into the home.

Jim worked for a while as a contract employee for the Navy at the Marinette Marine shipyard, just across the Michigan/Wisconsin border from Menominee. However, Jim wanted to continue to fly helicopters. In the summer of 2004 he landed a job with County Rescue flying Eagle III, an emergency air and ground transportation program, which provides Critical Care level treatments during rapid transport of critically ill or injured patients. The job was just outside Green Bay, Wisconsin, which required days away from home. Jim found the job very rewarding and by all accounts, he quickly earned the respect and admiration of his peers. While he was serious about his job, he also had a great sense of humor—often playing pranks on co-workers.

Mr. Speaker, for anyone who works in the military there are significant sacrifices that their families make in terms of time away from the family. While Jim did need to spend time away from his family throughout his career, he always had a deep love for his family. Jim had a strong faith in God and was an active member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. He and Gina believe in the power of God. In February they attended a conference put on by Father John Corapi and Jim was fond of Father Corapi's teachings. Now, as Gina, Jim III, Luke, and Vanessa struggle to move forward with their lives, they have turned to God for strength and comfort. With this strong faith, support from family and friends, and with time, I am confident that they will find the strength to persevere.

As we commemorate this Memorial Day, I am reminded of a beautiful sunny summer day in Traverse City when Jim Vincent walked across the Coast Guard hanger to greet a veteran who was seated awaiting the start of a program. As Jim approached the veteran, he reached out to shake the man's hand and simply said, "Sir, thank you for your service to our country." The veteran's eyes welled with tears as he replied, "You're welcome." So as I conclude Mr. Speaker let me simply say "Jim, thank you for your service to our country."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the Agri-

culture Appropriations Act of 2007, on May 23, 2006, I inadvertently voted in favor of an amendment, H. Amdt. 895, offered by Representative BLUMENAUER.

It was my intention to vote in opposition to the amendment. My true intention was to vote "no."

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union has under consideration the bill (H.R. 5427), making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the chairman and staff of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee for their continued support of the Florida Everglades FY07 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

This legislation includes funding for the Army Corp of Engineers to proceed with Everglades Restoration, which will ensure natural water flows continue through Everglades National Park.

The Florida Everglades is a unique and precious ecosystem that must be preserved for future generations. Everglades Restoration is an invaluable investment that will ensure the Everglades is restored and protected.

I am pleased that the chairman included \$164 million for Everglades Restoration, which is so critical to ensuring continuation of this vital project. Just last week, the Interior Appropriations bill included an additional \$69 million for Restoration. The funding provided in the Interior bill, combined with that in the Energy and Water bill, will together provide a total of \$233 million to allow restoration to move forward.

I thank my colleagues from Florida for their continued support of the Florida Everglades and Restoration funding. Additionally, I would like to thank the Governor of Florida for his steadfast support of Everglades Restoration. Floridians understand the great benefit the Everglades provide not just to our ecological diversity, but also to our economy, which is so dependent upon tourism and ecotourism.

On behalf of myself, and the residents of southern Florida I am so proud to represent, I thank the chairman for his support of this funding.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERNON AND DARLENE BURK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vernon and Darlene Burk for their 55 years of marriage and for their service to the Boulder City community.